

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

CHADD WOOD,

Plaintiff,

-against-

VIACOMCBS/PARAMOUNT,

Defendant.

22-CV-6323 (LTS)

ORDER DIRECTING PAYMENT OF FEES
OR AMENDED IFP APPLICATION

LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN, United States District Judge:

Plaintiff Chadd Wood brings this action *pro se*. To proceed with a civil action in this Court, a plaintiff must either pay \$402.00 in fees – a \$350.00 filing fee plus a \$52.00 administrative fee – or, to request authorization to proceed *in forma pauperis* (IFP), that is, without prepayment of fees, submit a signed IFP application. *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 1914, 1915.

Plaintiff submitted an IFP application, but he does not fully answer the questions pertaining to his financial situation.¹ Plaintiff's answer to question 2, which is "N/A," appears to suggest that Plaintiff is not employed, and he indicates that his gross monthly wages are "0.00," and that his take-home pay or wages are "0.00." (ECF No. 1 at 1.) In question 3, Plaintiff indicates that in the past 12 months, he has not received income from any of the listed sources, and in question 4, he indicates that he does not have any money in the bank. (*Id.* at 1-2.) Plaintiff does not answer question 5, and in his response to question 6, which asks Plaintiff to describe and provide the amount of the monthly expense for any housing, transportation, utilities, loan payments, or other regular monthly expenses, he lists monthly expenses totaling \$4,050.00. (*Id.*

¹ On the same day that this action was filed, another Plaintiff, Amirah Mercer, who resides at the same address as the Plaintiff in this case, also filed an action against the same Defendant. *See Mercer v. ViacomCBS/Paramount*, ECF 1:22-CV-6322, 2. The IFP applications filed in both actions are identical. (*Id.* at 1.)

at 2.) In question 8, Plaintiff lists that he has credit card debt in the amount of \$5,000, and loans in the amount of \$10,000, but he does not indicate to whom the debts are payable. (*Id.*) Because Plaintiff fails to supply sufficient information explaining any sources of income and how he pays his expenses, it is unclear whether Plaintiff has sufficient funds to pay the filing fees for this action. The Court is therefore unable to make a ruling on Plaintiff's IFP application.

Within thirty days of the date of this order, Plaintiff must either pay the \$402.00 in fees or submit an amended IFP application. Plaintiff must answer all questions as they pertain to his current financial situation. If Plaintiff submits the amended IFP application, it should be labeled with docket number 22-CV-6323 (LTS), and address the deficiencies indicated above by providing facts to establish that he is unable to pay the filing fees. If the Court grants the amended IFP application, Plaintiff will be permitted to proceed without prepayment of fees. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1).

No summons shall issue at this time. If Plaintiff complies with this order, the case shall be processed in accordance with the procedures of the Clerk's Office. If Plaintiff fails to comply with this order within the time allowed, the action will be dismissed.

The Court certifies under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3) that any appeal from this order would not be taken in good faith, and therefore IFP status is denied for the purpose of an appeal. *Cf.*

Coppedge v. United States, 369 U.S. 438, 444–45 (1962) (holding that appellant demonstrates good faith when seeking review of a nonfrivolous issue).

SO ORDERED.

Dated: July 28, 2022
New York, New York

/s/ Laura Taylor Swain
LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN
Chief United States District Judge